

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Section 12 of the outstanding office action does not acknowledge receipt of Applicants' Japanese priority application. Since the Notice of Acceptance Under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 CFR 1.495 already acknowledges receipt of Applicants' Japanese priority document, perhaps the examiner felt that no further acknowledgement was necessary. If not, Applicants would appreciate a formal acknowledgement of receipt from the examiner.

Claims 1-2 are presently active. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the structure as shown in, for example, Fig. 1. No new matter has been added.

The examiner is respectfully reminded that, if claim 1 is now allowed, withdrawn claims 3-12 will be entitled to examination.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al.

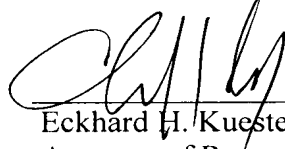
In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the ends of the hoist ropes that are attached to the car are "fixed to at least approximately the centers of the right and left sides of the car at position nearly symmetrical with respect to the center of gravity of the car in an horizontal plane of the car" and that "the other ends of the hoist ropes are fixed to the counterweight." As clearly seen in FIG. 9 of Kobayashi, the first ends of the hoist ropes are **not** "fixed to at least approximately the centers of the right and left sides of the car."

Application No. 10/586,864  
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2007

An early and favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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